Resource Description and Access (RDA) and the Implications of RDA for Federal Depository Libraries

This page has been migrated to the beta version of FDLP.gov. **Go to the new page**.

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) continues to monitor the discussion of the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA: **Resource Description and Access**. RDA is based on FRBR, or **Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records**, and was released in 2010. It has undergone testing at the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, the National Agricultural Library, and at RDA National Test Partner Libraries.

In June of 2011 several updates were released, which add further to this discussion. The links to the full text of the documentation are included here:

* **Report and Recommendations of the U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee** (192 pages)
* **Executive Summary of the U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee** (8 pages)
* **Response of the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, and the National Library of Medicine to the U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee** (3 pages)

The transition to RDA is complex, but several changes are notable in how they differ from current AACR2 standards:

* RDA will impose new rules for the creation of added entries (elimination of the "rule of 3").
* Most abbreviations are to be eliminated, particularly Latin abbreviations.
* The general material designation (GMD) will be replaced by three new MARC fields: content type (336), media type (337), and carrier type (338).
* RDA will use mode of issuance instead of continuing resources.
* The impact of RDA on authorities. Much is still unknown about the impact of RDA and the hybrid environment in the national authority file, although a **policy** has been developed for PCC members on using RDA and AACR2 authority records.

The general recommendation of U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee regarding the timeline for completion has been revised, with a projected implementation date no earlier than January 2013.

Update 1 (7/12/2011)

Supervisors, managers, and Bibliographic Control staff continue their training on these new RDA standards. Bibliographic Control staff have recently upgraded several RDA records as part of their routine cataloging activity. These records can be viewed in the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP) (catalog.gpo.gov). The Aleph system numbers for these records are 000818552 (OCLC # 728302331) and 000822999 (OCLC # 728234001). Look in the MARC view of the CGP records to see the new fields 336, 337, and 338 and to see "rda" in the 040 field. An analysis of the RDA features of these records will be posted to this project page in the coming weeks.

Update 2 (10/6/2011)

In early September, the CGP was updated to accommodate the display of RDA information. The new MARC fields 336 (content type), 337 (media type) and 338 (carrier type) display in the CGP MARC view in numerical order. The 338 tag containing format information now displays in the CGP Standard view with the label "Format". Check out Aleph record number 000822999.

Additionally, GPO finalized a **local practice option** for capitalization of title information in the 245 MARC field.

LTIS staff continue to follow the progress of RDA implementation. New titles have been cataloged following RDA principals. You can view these records in the CGP; system numbers 000832680 and 000829099. GPO is planning for full implementation of RDA in spring 2013.

Update 3 (7/17/2012)

In June 2011, OCLC issued their RDA policy, **OCLC Policy Statement on RDA Cataloging in WorldCat for the U.S. Testing Period and Beyond**, which states:

"For materials other than continuing resources, catalogers are asked NOT to edit a WorldCat full-level master record (ELvl values blank, 1, 4, 8, I, and L) to change it from one set of rules to another. In other words, if the record was created according to AACR2 (and coded as such), please do not change the master record to RDA. If the record was created according to RDA (and coded as such), please do not change the master record to AACR2."

To date, GPO catalogs following AACR2, and does not yet catalog according to RDA (other than test records which have been cited in these updates). Since GPO follows AACR2, when we find records cataloged according to RDA in OCLC, GPO staff are locally editing records to conform to AACR2. When we produce them for the record load and the CGP, the records are cataloged according to AACR2, although the master record remains cataloged according to RDA in OCLC. GPO catalogers will remove all RDA elements from the local record, including the $e rda from the 040.

Example: sys000860080 ocm767644750 -- C 55.302:H 11 -- NOAA Habitat Program

LTIS staff continue to follow the progress of RDA implementation. NACO training for RDA will be made available later this fall. No Day One for bibliographic records has yet been announced; GPO continues to plan for full implementation of RDA in 2013. All comments, questions and suggestions about this policy or its application should be submitted to Jennifer Davis, Manager, Bibliographic Control Section, Office of Library Technical Information Services.

Update 4 (12/18/2012)

The following is a timeline of upcoming RDA tasks leading up to the complete adoption of RDA standards for cataloging.

* **December 2012:** Test batch of approximately 30 records created.
* **December 20, 2012:** Test batch records and all records created in RDA will be available for searching in both CGP and OCLC. A quick link to the CGP records is **available on the homepage**.
* **January-March, 2013:** Authority and bibliographic records created using both RDA and AACR2. All records created in RDA and available in the CGP and OCLC, must pass newly developed internal quality control standards. RDA record creation will focus on

high priority cataloging output, ie Congressional publications, electronic/online documents, 'hot topics', etc. Order records and brief acquisitions records will continue to be available in AACR2.

* **April, 2013:** Full implementation of RDA is expected. All authority and bibliographic (full cataloging and brief acquisitions records) created by GPO follow RDA standards.
* **April, 2013:** A virtual information session about RDA will be held for depository libraries shortly after implementation takes place.

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